

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for controlling access to a network by a wireless client, the method comprising: assigning a network address to the wireless client, wherein the network address has a lease period; sending the assigned network address to the wireless client; sending the address of a wireless access point to the wireless client, wherein the wireless access point is adapted to provide access to the network for the wireless client; and, if the wireless client fails to establish a secure link with the wireless access point and request a renewal of the assigned address via the secure link within the lease period, invalidating the assigned network address, thereby preventing the wireless client from accessing the network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned network address and the wireless access point address are sent to the wireless client in a DHCP offer packet.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the secure link is an IPSEC tunnel.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the assigned network address is sent to the wireless client via the wireless access point.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the address of the wireless access point that is sent to the wireless client comprises an IP address and a MAC address.

6. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

7. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 2.

8. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 3.

9. A method for controlling access to a network by a wireless client, the wireless client using a network address having a lease period to communicate with the network, the method comprising: engaging in a negotiation of a secure link with the wireless client; communicating with an address server of the network to determine whether the lease period of the leased network address has expired; and, if the lease period is determined to be expired, terminating the negotiation, thereby preventing the wireless client from accessing the network.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the negotiation is a negotiation of an IPSEC tunnel.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the address server is a DHCP server.

12. A method for controlling access to a network by a wireless client, the method comprising: receiving a request for a network address from the wireless client; attaching information to the request to indicate that the request originated from a wireless client; relaying the request to the address server; receiving an assignment  
5 of an address from the address server, the address having a lease time; relaying the assignment to the wireless client; negotiating the establishment of a secure link with the wireless client; and, if the lease time expires before the secure link is established, denying the wireless client access to the network.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising: broadcasting an ARP packet to check whether there are any other clients having the same IP address of the wireless client; and, if a response to the ARP packet is received, terminating the negotiation, thereby denying the wireless client access to the network.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising: in response to the negotiation, creating an ARP entry that maps the the IP address of the wireless client to the MAC address of the wireless client.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the request is a DHCP discover  
20 packet, the method further comprising: inserting data into an optional field of the packet to indicate that the packet was received from a wireless client; and relaying the packet to the address server.

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20. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 13.

21. On a wireless client, a method for gaining access to a network, the method comprising: broadcasting a request for an address on the network; receiving an assignment of a leased address from the network, the leased address having a lease time; and negotiating a secure link with the network before the lease time expires.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the request for an address is broadcast as a DHCP discover packet.

5 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the secure link is an IPSEC tunnel.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the negotiating step further comprises: generating an ARP packet having the network address given by the DHCP server as its destination address; and, in response to the ARP generation,  
10 initiating a negotiation of a secure link with the network.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the leased address is received in a packet, wherein the packet additionally contains the network and MAC address of a wireless access point, wherein the secure link is negotiated with the wireless access  
15 point corresponding to the network address.

26. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 21.

20 27. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 22.

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